Remarks

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Initially, Applicants express their appreciation for the courtesy of a personal interview granted to their attorney by the Examiner on May 4, 2004, the results of which are summarized in the Interview Summary form.

Referring to the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action, Applicants' attorney noted during the interview that according to claim 1 it is the polyester, rather than the terephthalic acid, which has been recovered. Applicants' attorney also emphasized that in contrast to the sequential reactions disclosed in the references (as discussed in Applicants' previous response), the present invention requires concurrent reaction of the reactants.

As discussed with the Examiner during the interview, claim 1 has been amended to change "being characterized by" to --comprising--, which is more in accord with U.S. practice; and for additional clarity, numbers (1)-(3) have been inserted into claim 1 to facilitate identification of the reactants.

The Examiner agreed that these amendments to claim 1 would be entered even though they are being submitted after a final rejection.

The patentability of the presently claimed invention over the disclosures of the references relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting the claims will be apparent upon consideration of the following remarks.

Thus, the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fisher, as well as the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yasumura et al. and the rejection of claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fisher or Yasumura et al. in view of Salsman, are respectfully traversed.

As Applicants have noted in their previous response filed October 20, 2003, none of these references discloses a concurrent reaction of regenerated polyester, polyhydric alcohol and polybasic acid, as required in the presently claimed invention.

Fisher, in column 7, only says that low profile additive number 4 was produced by firstly making PET react with diethylene glycol, and secondly allowing thus obtained glycolized PET to react with adipic acid. Thus, Fisher has no mention of glycolysis of PET in the presence of diethylene glycol and adipic acid.

In the process of Yasumura et al., PET is depolymerized with a polyhydric alcohol, and, then, a polyhydric alcohol and a polybasic acid are added to cause a polycondensation reaction. This reference does not teach or suggest a process wherein three components of PET, a polyhydric alcohol component, and a polybasic acid component are subjected to a concurrent reaction.

Salsman discloses making terephthalate polymer react with glycol in the presence of glycolysis catalyst to thereby decompose terephthalate polymer, and then allowing the thus obtained product to react with difunctional organic acid.

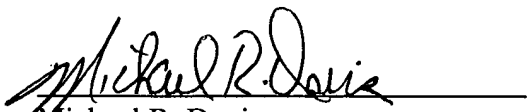
As is seen from the above, the references fail to teach or suggest a process to produce polyester resin by subjecting three components of a regenerated PES, a polyhydric alcohol component, and a polybasic acid component to a concurrent reaction.

For these reasons, Applicants take the position that the presently claimed invention is clearly patentable over the applied references.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that each of the grounds of rejection set forth by the Examiner has been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Chicara KAWAMURA et al.

By: 

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